

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Chickasaw Baptist Association.

HELD WITH THE

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISS.

ON THE

18th, 19th and 20th September, 1863.

MERIDIAN, MISS.

DAILY CLARION BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

1864.

MINUTES

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

Episcopal Baptist Association

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MD.

1891

MERIDIAN, MARY

MINUTES.

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH, LAFAYETTE CO., MISS.

September 18, 1863.

The delegates composing the Twenty-fifth session of the Arkansas Association met with the Philadelphia church, day before the third Sabbath in September, 1863. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. L. Farmer, from the first part of the twelfth verse of the third chapter of Revelations, after which the congregation was dismissed for half an hour.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The congregation was called together by Elder James Well, the former moderator.

Prayer by the Moderator.

The Chair appointed as reading clerk Elder H. L. Findley J. M. Chambers.

The letters from the several churches were then called for the names of the delegates enrolled, for which see statistical table.

Petitionary letters were then called for, when the Piney Grove and Spring Hill churches were received, and the right of fellowship given by the Moderator.

The Association then proceeded to the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Elder Jas. Well, Moderator, and Elijah Smyth, Clerk.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

On Preaching—H T Pitts and J Shurman, together with deacons of Philadelphia church.

On Arrangement of Business—Elders E Browning, H L Findley, J Smith and Bro. A Beard; when by motion the Moderator and Clerk were added to said committee.

On the State of Religion in our Bounds—Elders J T Pitts J S Miles, and Bro. H T Pitts.

On Documents—Elders W L Farmer, H Pritchard and J Shurman.

On Finance--Elders H L Findley, J T Pitts and Bro Beard.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Elder H L Findley.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J T Pitts.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements which was read and adopted; for which see Appendix A.

Read the Rules of Decorum.

Called for correspondence, when a letter from the Addeen Association was received by the hands of Elder H Findley and read.

Invited ministers of our order present, not delegates, seats with us in council.

Received the report of the Committee on the state of Religion, which was read by the chairman, and adopted by the body.

Appointed Elders J S Miles, J Smith, and Bro. H T Pitts a committee on correspondence.

On application, agreed to hold the next session of the body with the Mt. Pleasant church, fifteen miles northeast of the town of Pontotoc, Miss.

Went into the choice of minister to preach the next inductive sermon, when Elder H L Findley was chosen, and Gary in case of failure.

Called for the report of the Executive Board, when Bro E Smythe, a member of the board, informed the body that quorum was not present, but that a minority would submit the result of the past year's labor, which was read and adopted, for which see Appendix B.

The Committee on Documents made their report, through their chairman, which was read, and adopted, for which see Appendix C.

Elected J H Berry, H T Pitts, J B Gambrel, A W Farmer and E Smyth as an Executive Board for the next association year.

Appointed as correspondents to the Judson Association Elders Jas Boswell, J Smith, J T Pitts, W L Reynolds, Browning and brethren H T Pitts and E Smyth.

To Cold Water Association--Elders W L Reynolds and W L Farmer.

To Aberdeen Association—Elder J. T. Pitts and H. T. Pitts.

On motion, adjourned to hear a sermon by Elder J. S. Miles, which was delivered to an attentive audience, and we hope much good may result therefrom.

EVENING SESSION.

Met and spent half an hour in prayer, as proposed in the report of the Committee of Arrangement—prayers by Elder A. Houston and E. Browning.

The Committee on Finance made their report through the chairman, for which see Appendix D.

The Treasurer submitted his report, which was read and agreed to, for which see Appendix E.

Then an appeal was made to the Association and congregation for aid to the Home or Domestic Mission, when \$74.00 was soon laid on the table by the audience.

RESOLUTIONS.

1st. *Resolved*, That the Rules of Decorum, Constitution and Abstract of Principles of this Association be printed with these minutes.

2d. *Resolved*, That the delegates present, of this association, on their return to their respective churches, present the claim of domestic missions to them in view of the low condition of our finances.

3d. *Resolved*, That the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes, and that he retain fifteen dollars for his services, out of any money on hand not otherwise appropriated.

4th. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association are due and are hereby tendered to the church and congregation at Philadelphia for their kind reception and hospitable entertainment during our present session.

5th. *Resolved*, That our thanks be tendered to the moderator and clerk for the able manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

SABBATH MORNING.

Spent some time in prayer, after which Elder H. L. Findley occupied the stand and preached an interesting sermon to a large and attentive congregation, the fruit of which will only be known in eternity.

After which there was a collection taken up, amounting to \$40. 00.

The Association adjourned to meet with the Mt. Pleasant church, Pontotoc county, Miss., Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1864.

JAS. BOSWELL,
Moderator.

ELIJAH SMYTH,
Clerk.

APPENDIX A.

The committee appointed to arrange business for the action of this body, ask leave to recommend the following:

- 1st. Read Rules of Decorum.
- 2d. Call for correspondence.
- 3d. That this Association spend one half hour in each day of the present session, in humble and fervent prayer for the blessings of Heaven to rest upon our beloved country and dear friends now on the tented field.
- 4th. Appoint persons to write letters of correspondence.
- 5th. Appoint the place for the next meeting of the Association.
- 6th. The election of a minister to preach the annual sermon.
- 7th. Call for the report of the Executive Board.
- 8th. Call for the Treasurer's report.
- 9th. Election of the Executive Board.
- 10th. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
- 11th. Resolutions and general business.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
E. BROWNING, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

VERY DEAR BRETHREN:

We lament to have to report that, owing to the frequent raids of

the enemy amongst us, we have not been able to hold any regular meetings for business during the past associational year, but an appointment was given to Elder H. L. Findly to continue his labor in the southwest part of our Association, the result of which, as appears by his report, is that he has travelled 450 miles, labored 70 days, preached 60 sermons, delivered 70 exhortations, and baptised twenty converts. Although this falls far short of the labor and results of former years, yet we ought to thank God and take courage that the Gospel of Christ is yet powerful when preached in the name of Jesus.

ELIJAH SMYTH,

Sec'y of the Executive Board.

APPENDIX C.

We, your Committee on Documents, ask leave to recommend the following: that we find nothing in corresponding documents demanding their publication, but would recommend the publication of a synopsis of the union meetings, as follows:

From the First District:

There was no organized meeting held, owing to the threatened raids of the enemy, and consequently no appointments for the future made.

From the Second District:

The next meeting of this body will be with the Amaziah church (Tippah county) commencing Friday before the 2d Sabbath in August, 1864.

Elder W. L. Reynolds to preach the introductory sermon, Elder W. L. Farmer alternate.

APPENDIX D.

We, your committee on Finance, submit the following:

For Minutes.....	\$04 75
Philadelphia church for associational purposes.....	6 00

\$100 75

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. L. FINDLY, Ch'm'n.

APPENDIX E.

Elijah Smyth, Treasurer, in account with the Chickasaw Association, 1863,

G.

Due by Treasurer, to balance.....	\$ 29 86
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INDIAN MISSION

As per last report, Sept. 16, 1860,.....\$ 4 50

FOREIGN MISSION

As per last report, Sept. 16, 1860,.....\$ 1 00

To purchase bibles for soldiers.....\$ 27 00

Cr.

Oct. 1861, as per receipt in Tennessee Baptist, 12th November, 1863 \$ 27 00

Sept. 19, '63, Received from the Committee on Finance
for Minutes \$ 94 75

Sept. 19, '63, public collection.....\$ 74 00

20 40 00

\$114.00

Credit by uncurrent funds.....	10 00
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Due by Treasurer\$104 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ELIJAH SMYTH, Treasurer.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

L. BALL,
J. SMITH,
W. L. REYNOLDS,
L. J. PRATT.

J. BOSWELL,
D. POTTER,
J. T. PITTS,
R. NUTT.

E. BROWNING,
F. M. FERRELL,
J. C. HALE,
W. L. FARMER.

LICENTIATES.

H. PRITCHARD,

J. SMITH.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. H. BERRY,
J. B. GAMBRELL.

H. T. PITTS,
E. SMYTH.

A. W. FUNK.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1st. This association shall be called the "CHICKSAW BAPTIST ASSOCIATION."

ART. 2d. It shall be composed of persons who have been duly elected delegates by the respective churches belonging to this union.

ART. 3d. The delegates representing the different churches shall, at the opening of the association, present the letters specifying their appointment, and also showing the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, and dead, during the year, together with the whole number in fellowship.

ART. 4th. Every church belonging to this body shall be entitled to three delegates until they number one hundred members, and then one for each hundred above that number.

ART. 5th. Churches of this union failing to represent themselves at one association, will be expected to state the reason of their failure at the next, and if any church fail for three successive meetings, the association may consider such church as dropped from its number, or shall have power to send a committee to inquire into its state, or proceed as the association may deem most advisable.

ART. 6th. New churches may be admitted into this union by signifying their wish by letter and delegates, provided they be deemed orthodox, and are willing to walk in fellowship with us.

ART. 7th. The association shall have a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting so soon as letters from the churches are read, and members' names enrolled: provided, however, that nothing in this article be so construed as to prohibit churches petitioning for union with us, from voting by their delegates for moderator and clerk.

ART. 8th. This association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of churches; it shall, however, be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may withdraw from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

ART. 9th. The association shall have a fund for its expenses, and the churches shall be at liberty to send up such funds as they may think proper, either for foreign or domestic missions, for the bible, or any other benevolent institution, and the association appoint one or more, to take charge of the same, and forward them as they may be designated, and report to the next association.

ART. 10th. Any church of this union having a difficulty that she cannot settle, may call help from other churches, or may present the case to this body for advice; such cases must be presented in the letter of correspondence, stating the reasons why it has not, or could not, be decided by the church.

ART. 11th. When churches of this union have members supposed to possess ministerial gifts, "we recommend them to" call from two or more churches for the aid of their ministers and such other members as the churches may deem most suitable to examine the individuals, and if thought advisable, to authorize such a member or members to preach the gospel—which shall be reported to the association, and entered on the minutes.

ART. 12th. Any church having a gift she deems worthy of Ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the abstract of principles of this association.

ART. 13th. This association may correspond by letter and delegates, with the Baptist Convention of this State, and with such associations as she may deem most conducive to the general interest of Zion.

ART. 14th. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the session rises; no association shall adjourn unless in extraordinary cases, until it has finished all its business.

ART. 15th. The association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of churches; it shall, however, be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may withdraw from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1st. The association shall be opened by prayer.

ART. 2d. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the members present by private ballot.

ART. 3d. The moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal, provided that appeal be made on the same day, but at no subsequent time.

ART. 4th. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless his vote be necessary to decide the question. If he arises to speak, he shall call on some brother to take the chair.

ART. 5th. All questions brought before the association, shall be introduced by motion, and, if seconded, shall be open for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been taken up and a reasonable time allowed for discussion, the moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, and if a call for a division be made it shall be decided by the members rising.

ART. 6th. Any member wishing to speak shall rise and address the moderator. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at the same time, who shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or make personal reflections.

ART. 7th. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject until all who wish to speak shall have had an opportunity, nor more than twice upon any subject without permission.

ART. 8th. Every subject introduced for discussion, shall be first decided before another shall be offered, unless it be laid over by motion, with the consent of the mover and association.

ART. 9th. The association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of members present, except in the reception of churches, then a unanimous vote shall be required. "But in no case shall one member or church prevent the reception of a church without sufficient cause shown, which shall be determined by a majority."

ART. 10th. The names of members shall be called whenever the association shall direct, and the absentees marked.

Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the moderator.

ART. 11th. The appellation of brother shall be used by the members in addressing each other.

ART. 12th. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to be reproved by the moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ART. 13th. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

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ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions, should be tried.

2. OF THE TRUE GOD.—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. ON THE FALL OF MAN.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but, by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

4. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

6. OF THE FAIRNESS OF SALVATION.—That the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, an active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe in the Gospel; is the foundation of christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from the love of sin; to deliver them from which, and restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications and duties, are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—That christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its purifying power; that it is pre-requisite to the privilege of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, to

11. 5. OF JUSTIFICATION.—That the great Gospel blessing which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is Justification; that Justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

These of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for the rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and the magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the kings of the earth.

15. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. OF THE WORLD TO COME.—That the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

17. OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the Word and Sacraments, observing the ordinances of the Gospel, and following the discipline of the church.

18. OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.—That the Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with the power, that it is pre-figurative to the reality of a new birth, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	POST-OFFICES	DAYS OF MEETING	NAMES OF DELEGATES	IMMERSED BY LETTER	RECEIVED BY LETTER	DISMISSED BY LETTER	RESTORED	EXCLUDED	DEAD	COLOR'D MEMBERS	TOTAL	COUNT FOR MEMBERS
Amaziah	W L Reynolds	Carnesville	2d Sabbath	W L Reynolds, A Ray, J Swain, †	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	61	3 00
Academy†	H L Findly	Orizaba	"	J Martin, W Todd, J Hall	6	3	3	0	2	5		107	2 00
Bethel	F M Ferral	Lafayette Springs	4th "	P M Ferrell, H Pritchard, W P Goolsby	9	3	0	1	0	1	8	72	6 50
Cypress Creek	D Potter	Lafayette Springs	2d "	J T Pitts, H T Pitts, E Smyth.	14	1	4	0	1	4	63	231	10 00
Cherry Creek	T Gary	Cherry Creek	3d "	J Santer, J Wallace.	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	32	3 00
Friendship	Jas Roswell	Clayville	3d "	J B Gambrell, † W L Greyer, J Davis	1	0	0	0	0	7	14	170	5 50
Pleasant Ridge	Jas Roswell	Molino	4th "										
Pleasant Hill, P	J Smith	New Albany	2d "										
Pleasant Hill, T	Unknown	Salem	2d "										
Temperance Hill	W L Farmer	Holly Springs	1st "	E Butler, J Boatright, W B P— †	3	0	0	0	0	2		50	2 50
Mt. Pleasant	J Smith	Wallersville	1st "	J Smith, D Potter, † W Halditch, †	20	0	0	0	0	0	19	156	6 50
Mt. Pisgah	J Smith	Rocky Ford	3d "	J D Crane, J Swann, J Beard.	25	0	0	0	0	0		80	7 50
Pine Grove	†	Pine Grove	"										
Spring Creek	W L Farmer	Waterford	4th "	W L Farmer, W Alexander, E H Font	9	2	0	0	0	1	41	91	2 50
Liberty	Jas Roswell	Tadysville	4th "	Jas Boswell, S H Plant, † A J Parrish.	4	1	2	1	2	0		83	7 00
Washington	H L Findly	Lafayette Springs	3d "	H L Findly, N Y Hunt, E C Duncan	1	0	0	0	0	2		34	4 00
Shady Grove	E Browning	Fredonia	1st "	E Browning, E Reeves, † J Hill									
Bethlehem	A Ray	Salem	"										
Rocky Mount		Blackland	"										
New Hope	H L Findly	Pontotoc	1st "	J Smith, † R Atkins, † W T Neely.	9	0	0	0	1	0	1	91	5 50
Philadelphia	J S Miles	Rocky Ford	"	W G McGill, L Short, J S Miles.	0	5	7	12	2	0		146	6 00
Piney Grove	T Gary	Yockafala	"	Jas Cragely, † T Gary, J Johnston	4	4	1	0	0	1		64	3 25
Spring Hill	H L Findly	Pontotoc	"	H L Findly, T J Hodges, J Crawford	5	4	10	0	5	4	13	121	10 00

† Delegates names marked thus not present.
Churches not represented in statistics blank.

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Signature on反面
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